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Memorandum Circular

No. 25

Series of 2023

SUBJECT : REVISED IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION AND PROMOTION OF BIO-FERTILIZERS IN CORN AREAS

I. Rationale

Corn is one of the essential crops planted in almost all parts of the country. It is one of the staple foods of Filipinos, used as an ingredient for animal feeds and several other industrial uses. Due to its several uses, there is an increasing demand of corn especially for feed use. Hence, there is a need to increase the production to supply the increasing local demand of corn.

In order to increase the production of local corn, the Department of Agriculture thru the National Corn Program (NCP) thru DA-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) provided support services to qualified corn beneficiaries. Support services include provision of quality corn seeds, fertilizers, production machinery, postharvest equipment and facilities, and production technology and business training.

At present, the cost of inorganic fertilizers drastically increased as a result of increasing price of oil in the international market. The high price of inorganic fertilizers significantly affects the cost of corn production in our country thus reducing the income of farmers. To sustain the yield level of corn and income of farmers and lower the cost of production, NCP supports the provision of bio-fertilizers (ex. Bio-N) to corn farmers as a supplemental source of plant nutrients.

Bio-fertilizers contain organisms that enhance nutrient uptake of plants. It improves the plant's root system, enhances nutrient absorption, provides resistance to pests and diseases, and enhances soil condition. Bio-fertilizers are cheaper alternatives to inorganic fertilizers.

II. Objective

Specific objectives of this project are as follows:

1. To improve/sustain corn productivity through the use of bio-fertilizers and will reduce the use of inorganic nitrogen-fertilizers; and
2. To promote the use of bio-fertilizers for corn through various extension activities such as info caravan, training, etc.

III. General Implementing Guidelines

Ready to use bio-fertilizers following the manufacturer's recommended rate per hectare shall be distributed to corn farmers that are registered in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). Distribution shall be through the active corn cluster organization but for individual farmers (no cluster), distribution shall be done through LGU-Agricultural Extension Workers (LGU-AEWs).

IV. ROLES OF PARTICIPATING OFFICES/UNITS

The following are the duties and responsibilities of the participating offices/units:

A. DA Field Operations Service (DA-FOS)

1. Spearhead the overall implementation of the Project;
2. Conduct briefing with DA-RFOs and other agencies/offices involved in the Project implementation;
3. Conduct quarterly monitoring and assessment on the implementation of the project;
4. Provide advice/strategies on the operational bottlenecks of the Project; and
5. Provide periodic consolidated reports to higher management.

B. DA Regional Field Office (DA-RFOs)

1. Promote bio-fertilizers, conduct various extension activities such as information caravan, training, techno demo, and quad media;
2. Procure bio-fertilizers in accordance with the RA 9184, Government Procurement Act;
3. Deliver the procured bio-fertilizers to corn cluster beneficiaries;
4. Gather relevant data from the previous cropping prior and after the utilization of bio-fertilizer provided to assess project performance or activity contribution;
5. Validate and approve the list of qualified non-cluster farmers and cluster member farmers submitted by the Cluster Organizations;
6. Provide technical assistance on the proper utilization of bio-fertilizers in collaboration with the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs);
7. Consolidate and prepare monthly reports for submission to DA-FOS; and
8. Coordinate with the Local Government Units (LGUs) in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project.

C. Cluster Organization

1. Submit to DA-RFO thru LGU the letter of intent and list of farmer-members to be the recipient of bio-fertilizer allocated to the cluster;
2. Responsible for the distribution of ready to use bio-fertilizers following the manufacturer's recommended rate per hectare to qualified farmer member beneficiaries approved by the DA-RFO; and
3. Consolidate information/data, reports and other pertinent documents (e.g. Acknowledgement Receipts, Master list of recipients Client Satisfaction Feedback (CSF) forms) on the status of bio-fertilizer distribution and utilization to DA-RFO thru LGU.

D. Farmer Beneficiaries

1. Provide data to cluster organization on previous farming activities;
2. Receive the allocated bio-fertilizers (based on area to be planted) and utilize them following the recommended application procedure;
3. Allow DA-RFO and LGU to visit his/her area in order to assess the performance of corn production;
4. Implement other recommended production and post-harvest practices as per advice of the assigned Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW) in the area; and
5. Provide information/data, and other pertinent documents (e.g. Previous cost of production, Client Satisfaction Feedback (CSF) forms) and regular report on the status of bio-fertilizer utilization to cluster organization.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES

The DA-RFOs are hereby authorized to formulate supplementary guidelines to address peculiar situations in the region. This supplemental guideline shall be subject to the approval of the Senior Undersecretary prior to implementation.

This Memorandum Order may be reviewed, amended or supplemented as the need arises and only through a written instrument duly executed and signed by the Senior Undersecretary.

VI. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any clause, sentence, or provision of the Memorandum Order shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

VII. REPEALING CLAUSE

All other previous orders, issuances, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed and revoked.

VIII. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE

This Memorandum Order shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall be valid unless revoked and superseded by other issuances.

Done this 26th day of June, 2023.

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary



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